

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date: January 19, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Debora Laizer

Meeting Called to Order

Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. and announced that this virtual meeting would be recorded to the Cloud via the Zoom platform.

Members present and absent/introductions:

Member	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair	X	
Susan Lofthouse, Vice Chair	X	
Marilyn Castriotta	X	6:13 p.m.
Molly Hale	X	
Jennifer Werner		
Rob Postel	X	
David Lukens	X	
Staff & Visitors	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Debora Laizer, DPW Clerk	X	

Public Comment

- No public comments.

Review/approve minutes from January 5, 2022 meeting

- Members reviewed the minutes silently. A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To approve the January 5, 2022 meeting minutes.	Susan Lofthouse	David Lukens	Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0

Review/approve minutes from December 16, 2021 subgroup meeting

- Members reviewed the minutes silently. A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To approve the December 16, 2021 meeting minutes.	Susan Lofthouse	David Lukens	Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0

Chair Report/Tree Warden Report

- Rich has gathered all the expenditures for the Tree City USA application. This application needs to be completed and submitted before the end of January.
- Tool Design has submitted the 25% design for Main Street. They have asked the Tree Warden for his comments on existing tree locations and recommended tree species replacement by January 21, 2022.

Year End Planting Report

- Rich will have a ZOOM meeting with Beth Willard next week. To be discussed are spreadsheet changes and Ward sorting on the Master Tree spreadsheet.
- Add to the next agenda a further conversation on soil amendment strategy.
- Rob and Rich will be in contact with Amherst Nursery, Chestnut Ridge Nursery, and Morning Star Nursery to see what stock is available. Rob stated that “Amherst Nursery has more trees available this year, but they do not have the trees we want in the numbers we want in tree bags”.
- Molly asked if the planted sites and sites that are not good for planting could be logged in on her spreadsheets. Adding this information would be helpful. Rob offered to review the sites on what is about to be done or can’t be done. If Molly was sent the address list of what was planted, she can sort them and then update the spreadsheets.
- The UFC Commission asked Rich to place a working copy of his Master Tree spreadsheet on the UFC drive once he has cleaned it up. The UFC copy should be periodically updated by Rich after he has made significant changes.
- Davey Resource Tree Management Plan uses a 10-20-30 rule. Rob likes to use a 5-10-15 rule. This helps with the overplanting of any one species. Rob will forward this information to the UFC members.
- David asked if the city has ever partnered with a nursery to germinate trees from seed. Rich brought up the fact that procurement procedures does not allow for multiyear contracts so this probably could not work for the City of Northampton. Rich suggested looking into Branch out Burlington where volunteers plant bare root stock for a period of years.

Significant Tree Ordinance (STO) Draft Discussion

- A review of the Planning Board and Tree Wardens suggested STO changes were screen shared and discussed. After going through the STO draft line by line here are some of the suggestions the commission made.
 - Remove the words significant and mature canopy. The UFC would like to see just the word tree.
 - 11.5B(2)(i)(1) remove the words **mature canopy**.
 - 350-12.3 Remove the word **Canopy**
 - 350-12.3(A) David would like to add **storm water mitigation and climate change**. Remove the word **mature**.
 - 350-12.3(B) Remove the words **mature canopy**. In the table also remove the word **Mature**.
 - 350-12.3(D)(3) Remove the **or** before Director of Public Works, remove the **period** and add a **comma** at what was the end of the sentence, add **or Tree Warden**.
 - 350-12.3(E) Remove the word **significant**.
 - 350-12.3(D) Add reference **Northampton Tree List and Planting Guidelines**.
 - 350-12.3(F) Remove the word **significant**.
 - 350-12.3(F)(1) Remove the word **significant**.
 - 350-12.3(F)(2) Remove the word **significant**.
 - 350-12.3(G) Remove the word **significant**.

- Last line – Throughout tables, replace the term “significant tree” and “mature canopy tree” to tree.
- Susan will type up the talked about suggested STO changes and forward them to the UFC members.
- New STO draft suggestions or comments can be emailed but they may only be discussed during an official UFC meeting.

Spotted Lanternfly Update

- While Molly was completing another survey area, she found an Ailanthus tree with seeds all around it on Smith College’s property. Molly would like to see the seeds bagged and removed before they spread. Since that is private property Rich will try to find a contact person at Smith College.

Any other business not anticipated by the Chair

- Please review the Arbor Day/Earth Day Seedling Order Form and submit your suggestions to Rich as soon as possible.

Adjourn

- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To adjourn.	Molly Hale	David Lukens	Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 0

- Meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.